MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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Images courtesy of NRCS.

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MISSOURI
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ENERGIZE Missouri Agriculture

Cost-Share Grants for Energy Saving Projects

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OPERATING in the GREEN

For many Missouri farmers facing increasingly shrinking profit margins – the difference between operating in the black and operating in the red may well be determined by whether they're operating in the "green." While many factors facing farmers are beyond their control, such as the weather and the markets, there is an important factor within their control – energy usage.

To aid farmers in improving energy efficiency and their bottom line, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is offering up to $3 million statewide in cost-share grants to agricultural operations for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy equipment. The grants will fund up to 75 percent of the equipment and hardware cost of an energy saving project with a limit of $5,000 per applicant. Labor costs will not be covered by the grant funds.

Some types of projects have been identified as likely to qualify for a cost-share grant (see next page), but the department is also looking for new and innovative prospects as well. Anyone interested in receiving a cost-share grant should complete an application on the department's Web page.

Funding for the agricultural energy efficient cost share program is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information, contact the Energy Center at 573-751-2254, visit the local Soil and Water Conservation District office, or visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center's Web page at:

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Eligible Projects or Systems

- Solar powered systems (solar powered water systems such as pumps, panels, pipe, tanks or solar powered fencers).
- Insulated waterers.
- Global Positioning System, or GPS, guidance systems.
- Irrigation Improvements (flow meters, pulse irrigator, drip irrigation system, irrigation nozzle replacement, pipe upgrade, tier 3 engines).
- Dairy facility improvements (variable frequency drives, variable speed drives, improved refrigeration efficiency (plate cooler), heat reclaimers, high volume low speed fans, compressed air improvements).
- Swine and poultry facility improvements (high volume, low speed fans).
- Upgrade or new grain dryers.
- Lighting upgrades, motion sensors or timers.
- Conservation tillage equipment.
- High efficiency electric motors.
- Biomass furnaces/boilers for other than poultry houses.
- Equipment not on the list, if appropriate energy savings can be demonstrated.